

NEWS BRIEFING

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ARTHUR SYLVESTER

- - -

The Pentagon

- - -

October 24, 1962

4:00 P.M.

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MR. SYLVESTER: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. First, let me make this announcement. We will have copies for you when you go out.

The following security guidance was distributed today to military and civilian personnel of the Department of Defense:

"The following information is considered vital to our national security and, therefore, will not be released by the Department of Defense. Any publication of such information will be considered contrary to the national interest.

"1. Any discussion of plans for employment of strategic or tactical forces of the United States, including types of equipment and now or planned location of command or control centers or detection systems.

"2. Estimates of United States capability of destroying targets, including numbers of weapons required, size and character of forces required, ability of these forces

penetrate defenses, and accuracy or reliability of our forces or weapon systems.

- "3. Intelligence estimates concerning targets or target systems, such as numbers, types and locations of aiming points in the target system, enemy missile and bomber forces, etc.
- "4. Intelligence estimates of enemy planes or capabilities or information which would reveal the level of success of United States intelligence efforts or operations with respect to Cuba or the Communist Bloc.
- "5. Details as to numbers or movements of United States forces including naval units and vessels, aircraft, missile forces or ground forces, ammunition, equipment, etc. Announcement may be made of such unit movements after the movement has been completed.
- "6. Degree of alert of military forces.
- "7. Location of aircraft or supporting equipments. Presence of aircraft, observable in the public domain may be confirmed.

- "8. Enemy dispersal plans of aircraft and units, including dispersal capabilities, times, schedules or logistical support.
- "9. Official estimates of vulnerability to various forms of enemy action, including sabotage, of U. S. Armed Forces and installations.
- "10. New data concerning operational missile distribution, numbers, operational readiness. Estimates of effectiveness of strike capability of missile forces.
- "11. Details of command and control systems, including new or planned command posts and facilities, estimates of ability to survive enemy attack, security measures, etc., including sea or airborne command posts.
- "12. Details of air lift or sea lift capabilities, including size and nature of forces to be lifted, time limits for such lifts, and supply capabilities with respect to possible specific area of operation."

Now let me say about this, two things:

One, this, as I indicated, constitutes the instructions going

to all elements of the Defense Establishment. Furthermore, that this is, in effect, an extraction or extrapolation from our present guidances, our present stop orders. To see what effect, if any, this would have on the substance of the news, we made a check of the last three or four days' news stories and we found, actually, that there would be no real white space or any dead silences on anybody's media or in anybody's paper.

And, finally, this has been staffed through the Chiefs of Information of the services, all of whom have expressed their approval of it. Some changes were made at their suggestion, so it does represent, I think, a completely unified approach to that problem.

I would like to make now another statement which may be helpful, and beyond which I will not be able to go because it does deal with additional intelligence material we have obtained in Cuba.

"We are now able to announce some breakdown of information which has been obtained on Cuba. Release of this information is authorized by the Intelligence agencies of the U. S. Government.

"There are eight to ten bases located in areas near the cities" -- (I will have to admit my lack of Spanish) --

QUESTION: Is there a copy of this statement available?

MR. SYLVESTER: Yes. "Near the cities of Guanajay, Remedios, San Cristobal and Sagua LaGrande, with each base having about four launchers, more or less.

"Reports from all intelligence sources confirm that at least 30 missiles, and more than 20 IL-28 jet light bombers are present in Cuba."

QUESTION: Are these MRBM's or IREM's?

MR. SYLVESTER: That is my problem. I can't go beyond what I have here.

QUESTION: Let him finish the statement.

MR. SYLVESTER: Thank you.

"This evidence is undeniable. USSR personnel of at least 5000 are now in Cuba -- the exact number cannot be determined because of personnel there having arrived on a number of ships and aircraft."

QUESTION: Recently?

MR. SYLVESTER: Again, I am limited to this statement: "We will be able to release additional high and low level aerial reconnaissance pictures possibly in the next few hours."

As to the last statement, I would suggest that you be on hand or about 6:30 when we hope to release even more revealing pictures taken more recently.

Finally, I would like to call to your attention the fact that the following procedures have been announced by the Navy to handle submarine surfacing and identification procedures when in contact with U. S. quarantine forces in the general vicinity of Cuba.

QUESTION: Copies of this?

MR. SYLVESTER: No.

"U. S. forces coming in contact with unidentified submerged submarines will make the following signals to inform the sub that the may surface in order to identify himself." These are the signals. "Quarantine forces will drop four or five harmless explosive sound signals which may be accompanied by the International Code signal "IDKCA".

QUESTION: Would you repeat?

MR. SYLVESTER: "IDKCA", meaning "Rise to Surface."

"This sonar signal is normally made on underwater communication equipment in the 8 kc frequency range. On receipt of signal, submerged submarines should surface on easterly course. Signals and procedures employed are harmless and are to guarantee the safety of submerged submarines at sea in emergencies."

I am informed that the text of this message has been transmitted by the State Department to the interested countries. I cannot give you the list. I do not know it. I suggest you check them on where it has gone.

I have also answers to several of the questions asked of us this morning.

QUESTION: Can you answer first what they do after they get on an easterly course? Are they to be boarded?

MR. SYLVESTER: That would be the next step.

QUESTION: Has it also been transmitted to the Russians?

MR. SYLVESTER: I would have to leave that to the State Department. I would assume so, but you would have to ask them for the addresses.

One of the questions was: Have all the civilian employees been evacuated from Guantanamo, or are they going to be? A number of civilian employees have been evacuated. Generally these were women and elderly persons. Those men whose contribution to the operation of the base was important and who so elected have remained. Part of the question was related to indigenous employees. No indigenous employees who normally reside on the base have elected to depart. Part of that question was also: Are there any Cubans still working on the base? Yes. As of yesterday, a large number of workers who normally commute reported for work. We were also asked to recall are there any female nurses still at Guantanamo, that is, armed service or otherwise. The answer is yes, Navy

nurses, as always, where there is a Naval hospital, are on duty there. What happens to non-United States citizens, foreign nationals, et cetera, who are at Guantanamo? Those who want to leave can leave, as always. There are one or two other questions which we are still pursuing. I think I have nothing else to offer. I will try to answer any questions.

QUESTION: Can you clarify the last statement about the non-citizens, please, who can leave whenever they want to?

MR. SYLVESTER: I cannot break them down into categories. We will try to get that. This is simply a generalized statement that anybody else who might have been there could leave.

QUESTION: There are some non-U.S. citizens who couldn't.

MR. SYLVESTER: Let me check it out.

QUESTION: What if a submarine doesn't rise on an easterly course?

MR. SYLVESTER: If a submarine does not rise, I think Mr. McNamara's statement made that clear, that action will be taken to interdict any carrier.

QUESTION: What was that?

MR. SYLVESTER: Action will be taken, as the Secretary has made clear, to prevent the continuance of any carrier.

QUESTION: Art, there have been reports that -- the two radio networks, I think, have had reports that Russian ships have turned back, those that were said to be heading this way.

MR. SYLVESTER: I have nothing to contribute either way on that.

QUESTION: What was the question?

MR. SYLVESTER: I am sorry. I was asked about radio reports that Russian ships had allegedly turned back. My answer was, I have nothing to contribute in any way on that subject.

I can't either confirm it or deny it.

QUESTION: Do you mean you don't know?

MR. SYLVESTER: I am unable to comment on the question.

QUESTION: Art, before we proceed with some of this operational stuff, would you please explain what you mean by publication of the kind of material that you outlined in your security thing would be regarded as against the national interest? Are you saying newspapers that publish such material will be regarded as having published material against the national interest?

MR. SYLVESTER: No. This is directed internally to our own people, and at this hour I think Mr. Salinger at the White House is making a companion release which would relate and give an answer to your question.

QUESTION: Is this a war footing type of thing? When was the last time this sort of thing was done?

MR. SYLVESTER: This is actually extrapolated from our regular procedures when you are in this sort of situation.

QUESTION: Art, are you going to create some kind of office of voluntary censorship over here so that those of us who are in doubt can ask somebody?

MR. SYLVESTER: No, we don't expect, Dan, to have an office of voluntary censorship, but we do expect on the augmented news desk we have set up to make one or two officers available,

and if necessary, more, to handle any questions that may arise.

QUESTION: So far as you are concerned then, we are on our own to make a decision?

MR. SYLVESTER: I think the answer to your question is, if you take this material which is directed to our people, and the same material about which Mr. Salinger is currently having something to say, the question will answer itself. I don't want to beat him.

QUESTION: Art, did you follow up the request that we made at the last session to give us a briefing on boarding parties, their make-up and their operation?

MR. SYLVESTER: I have followed up the request at the last meeting to have a briefing on boarding parties and that is still in the process of formation.

QUESTION: Can you tell us about the arrival of evacuees at Norfolk or Newport News, whether they will be allowed to be interviewed on the base?

MR. SYLVESTER: We will interpose no objection. In fact, we will facilitate down there in the handling of news personnel who want to interview those people.

QUESTION: Is the manifest in advance of their arrival?

MR. SYLVESTER: We will certainly try to get the definite time of their arrival. I don't have it now, but as soon as we can, we will make it available.

QUESTION: I am talking about the manifest, the names.

MR. SYLVESTER: Two days ago I asked the Navy to send to each commander of the ships to have prepared a list of names, and segregated by States, if possible.

QUESTION: Have there been any intercepts of Russian ships yet?

MR. SYLVESTER: I haven't any comment to make on that.

QUESTION: Art, will the sound signals be dropped by planes or by vessels in the vicinity?

MR. SYLVESTER: I would assume that since this would be followed by a boarding that they would be dropped by ships.

QUESTION: Art, any information on the labels or cap material for those 10 photos? We still don't have any information on some of the labels that appeared on the photographs.

MR. SYLVESTER: Offhand, Lloyd, I have none. We will pursue it. I suspect since these are intelligence pictures and the material supplied by the intelligence agency is involved, it may not go beyond what we have had on it, but let us ask.

QUESTION: One of the photo captions said there was a cruise-type missile. Is that an air-breathing missile like the Matador and Mace?

MR. SYLVESTER: I would rather try and find out precisely, if I can, and answer the question than attempt comment on the material presented by the intelligence group.

QUESTION: Art, will you tell us why you will not comment on whether there have been any intercepts up to this time?

MR. SYLVESTER: Yes.

QUESTION: Why?

MR. SYLVESTER: I have been directed not to.

QUESTION: Did you ask why you received this direction?

MR. SYLVESTER: No. I knew why.

QUESTION: Can you tell us?

MR. SYLVESTER: No.

QUESTION: It is now close to 24 hours that we were given to believe would be the outside time in which contact would be made. Can you explain why, after that indication was made to us, we are left in a mystery?

MR. SYLVESTER: Well, I can't explain why you are left in a mystery, but I would say that the whole business of making a contact --

QUESTION: Louder.

MR. SYLVESTER: I am sorry. I would say that the whole business of making a contact, as has been explained to me by Navy personnel who are experts in this, is rather complicated. It is affected by the speed at which various ships

approach each other, whether they change course or not, by winds, by atmosphere, by weather, and the prediction of these matters is apparently less of a science than it is an art, and there is some imprecision in it.

QUESTION: Is it correct to assume that they might have made a contact by this time?

MR. SYLVESTER: I can't help you on any assumption.

QUESTION: Then you can surely say that we haven't stopped any Soviet ships?

MR. SYLVESTER: We have not stopped any that I know of.

QUESTION: Can you say if you will be able to tell us later today whether there have been any contacts?

MR. SYLVESTER: I would hope that right along that information would be made available as soon as possible.

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QUESTION: Is information of an approaching or impending contact immediately made available to the President and the Defense Department, or does the Navy or are the Navy ships instructed to carry out their orders and report after the fact?

MR. SYLVESTER: I think you will find the President, the Secretary of the Navy, and all the top officials are being kept in constant alert and kept up on what the situation may be hourly.

QUESTION: Will you be able to give us a detailed description of this contact after it is made?

MR. SYLVESTER: I would hope so.

QUESTION: Do we have your assurance that we will be informed as quickly as possible of any interception?

QUESTION: That was the understanding before ---

MR. SYLVESTER: I would expect ---

QUESTION: Are there any Navy ships ---

QUESTION: Wait a minute.

MR. SYLVESTER: I would expect, without giving a guarantee with my life, that the media and the people will be informed in due course.

QUESTION: Where?

QUESTION: Art, you said earlier today that 25 Russian

ships were mentioned by the Secretary -- or, you assumed that they were proceeding toward Cuba. Can you make that presumption at this hour?

MR. SYLVESTER: I don't think, Peter, that I said 25 ships.

QUESTION: I thought you made a reference to Russian ships. I thought it was the 25.

MR. SYLVESTER: I think not. I don't think I made a reference to any number, and I am completely unable at this moment to make any deviation.

QUESTION: Let me ask you something else. You also said that you would look into the Latin American cooperation. Can you tell us anything about that?

MR. SYLVESTER: Yes, we have done that. Again, I will have to refer you to State Department. I do not know the answer, and they are making the negotiations through OAS. It is that source and that quarter that the answer will come from. I can't tell you now. We have asked about it and this is in their province.

QUESTION: Art, are there any U. S. Navy ships that have any Soviet ships trailing them in visual sight at the present time?

MR. SYLVESTER: Again, Dan, this is a field in which I shan't make any comment whatsoever.

QUESTION: Have any Soviet ships arrived in the territorial waters of Cuba or arrived in port in Cuba since the proclamation was issued?

MR. SYLVESTER: Without any reference to your question yes or no, again you have me in a field in which I cannot comment at this time.

QUESTION: Last night Mr. McNamara said he thought one might get into port before the blockade became effective. Do you know whether that happened?

MR. SYLVESTER: I have no knowledge to that effect.

QUESTION: Are there any reasons to believe that the original forecast made by Mr. McNamara about the first contact must now be extended or that it must be changed in any way?

MR. SYLVESTER: I am not clear, Jack, how precise the Secretary was. It seemed to me there was a vague area in there, and I think there had to be and would be.

QUESTION: He said last night he had 24 hours to produce, so I assume he meant 24 hours.

QUESTION: That is what he said. Those were his words.

MR. SYLVESTER: He has three hours left.

QUESTION: Is there any reason to believe that that forecast no longer holds true?

MR. SYLVESTER: I wouldn't attempt to cast any reflection on my boss' forecast.

QUESTION: Art, can you spell out for us just what will be the procedure on announcing the matter of an interception? Will it be after it is done? During? Will we get a running commentary? What will be the procedure?

QUESTION: "We are just about to board a Soviet ship" -- boom.

MR. SYLVESTER: Jerry, I think it will come afterwards, and how much comment, running or otherwise, we have, I can't tell you now.

QUESTION: Arthur, does the Defense Department have any suspicion at all that these missiles may have been placed there to provoke our action and to give the Soviets some additional bargaining power?

MR. SYLVESTER: You've got me into what they may be thinking or doing and I really can't be any help to you on that ground.

QUESTION: Art, can you give us any more clues as to the statement this morning that reporters might best be ready to move somewhere on very short notice? Can you tell us where or when, or any more about that?

MR. SYLVESTER: What I was trying to get across was that I don't know when, as, and if what hour this may be opened up.

QUESTION: Can you explain a little more?

MR. SYLVESTER: No. If you will admit that I was once a newsman, I would be ready to go any time. I only say this so that if we should say, "In an hour or two hours the first group would go someplace," then you would say, "Why didn't you warn me that this might happen this fast?" We will try not to make it that fast. In fact we don't have to, but I would be ready to go. And I can't tell you when.

QUESTION: Arthur, is there any anticipation that you could have another conference tonight? Should we stand by?

MR. SYLVESTER: I would stand by for the 6:30 pictures and there may be some other material with them.

QUESTION: I mean another meeting called tonight.

MR. SYLVESTER: If you want me to appear any time, I'll be glad to ---

QUESTION: Do you anticipate the need for such a meeting, having something to announce?

MR. SYLVESTER: As of this moment I don't, but this is a changing situation. We might well have one. I am not suggesting that we will. If you want one set to come back later

on, I will be available, Nils will be available and our staff will. As of this moment, outside of the pictures we are going to release, and maybe some material relating to them, I can't foresee it at the moment.

QUESTION: Does this order for the submerged submarines apply only to the blockaded area?

MR. SYLVESTER: Yes. It applies to those submarines in the area which the commanders out there would assume might be going to Cuba.

QUESTION: When did that order go out?

QUESTION: What is the blockade area?

MR. SYLVESTER: It is wherever anybody might be going to Cuba.

QUESTION: When did that order go out?

MR. SYLVESTER: One second. I will have to check the date. Pardon me. It is today.

QUESTION: Do you know what time?

MR. SYLVESTER: No.

QUESTION: In your security guidance statement, you use the word "enemy" a couple of times. Who is the enemy?

MR. SYLVESTER: Anybody who threatens our security.

QUESTION: Wait a minute. I assume it means Cuba and the Soviet Union. Is that a good assumption?

MR. SYLVESTER: From the President's statement the other night, I gathered that he said that we regard the Cuban people as our friends, and that the government or the nation which was endangering our security was the Soviet Union. But these guide lines would apply in any event, regardless of whom we are dealing with.

QUESTION: Do they apply to Rumania?

MR. SYLVESTER: They would apply in any situation in which we are taking the sort of action we are taking, or more extended military action, or all-out extended action.

QUESTION: And they are in effect now?

MR. SYLVESTER: They are in effect now.

QUESTION: Do you know how long they will be in effect?

MR. SYLVESTER: They will be in effect until further notice.

QUESTION: Can you give any assurance they will be lifted when the blockade is lifted?

MR. SYLVESTER: Well, let's wait until we get there.

QUESTION: Art, late yesterday we were able to say there were 25 ships headed toward Cuba. Less than 24 hours later they seemed to have vanished from the face of the earth.

MR. SYLVESTER: The face of the sea.

QUESTION: Is the Pentagon trying to create a mystery?

MR. SYLVESTER: No.

QUESTION: You don't know which way they are going, you don't know where they are? This is a very puzzling circumstance, not just to us.

QUESTION: Art, before that --

QUESTION: Wait a minute.

MR. SYLVESTER: Wait a minute. Let me try to give some response.

QUESTION: I don't mean that. I mean when you know it, when you are authorized to release it, will you immediately release it instead of saying, "Everybody come over two hours from now."

MR. SYLVESTER: How would you like it done?

QUESTION: As soon as you get it. I don't want the news on schedule. I think we ought to get it as soon as it is available.

QUESTION: What are we to say has happened to those 25 ships?

MR. SYLVESTER: I will have to have a numbers count on it. I can't answer your question. But, again, it would fall in the general terms of which I am speaking, that we are not commenting on what the situation is.

QUESTION: We couldn't hear your answer.

MR. SYLVESTER: I am sorry. I said that this would fall within the general area, in this field, in which I am talking.

QUESTION: Art, do you expect to announce the first intercept tonight?

MR. SYLVESTER: Jerry, again this is within that field.

QUESTION: Well, this is not. Will you announce it when you know it instead of calling a meeting?

MR. SYLVESTER: I don't think I follow your question.

QUESTION: I mean, will you announce it as soon as you know something, rather than saying, "Come back here two hours from now" or something of that sort?

MR. SYLVESTER: I can't answer your question offhand precisely how long the interval is between the time we acquire the information, it is authenticated, and it is released.

MR. SYLVESTER: If it isn't handed out, it wouldn't be available.

QUESTION: Available to you, I mean.

MR. SYLVESTER: My recommendation will, of course, be that when it has been authenticated and I have the authority to release it, it will be released immediately. Therefore, everybody should keep in touch with us.

QUESTION: That will be regardless of the hour of the day or night?

MR. SYLVESTER: We are on duty here 24 hours throughout.

QUESTION: Are you going to stay here tonight?

MR. SYLVESTER: It is Mr. Lennartson's turn. I am going to sleep in a real bed tonight for a little while.

QUESTION: Will it come from here, the White House or the State Department first?

MR. SYLVESTER: Under the present set up it would come from here. I do not believe it would come from the State Department under any consideration.

QUESTION: What about the White House?

MR. SYLVESTER: It is conceivable that certain types of information might come from the White House.

QUESTION: About your earlier point, when you started talking about the weather and other conditions which might interfere with the observation or surveillance of the sea, this creates a cloud as to whether we are pursuing or tracking or observing these ships. Did you mean anything by this weather and wind conditions and so forth?

MR. SYLVESTER: All I meant, Lloyd, was that my mentors and guides of the Navy have told me that that is one of the factors always involved.

QUESTION: You are leaving an implication that perhaps there are difficulties that have been encountered in tracking ships and locating them?

MR. SYLVESTER: I didn't mean to leave any such implication. I merely meant that this is a factor at sea, which is always a factor. Whether you are tracking or not tracking, it is involved, as I understand it. Over the range of area that you are looking, obviously there are going to be differences in weather.

QUESTION: The fact that last night we mentioned 25 ships, by implication we have not only counted them, but we knew where they were. Is there a weather condition today, or within the last 24 hours, where these conditions have made

it difficult to track?

MR. SYLVESTER: You are getting into a field in which I am prohibited, that is, to say what the situation is.

QUESTION: Are the Soviet ships maintaining radio silence?

MR. SYLVESTER: I can't help you.

MORE

QUESTION: Art, I think you can answer whether the weather has turned foul out there in the area. Can't you?

MR. SYLVESTER: Let me see if we can get down together on this. The area at which the Navy is looking is a very great area. There isn't any specific little corner of the sea that they are looking in. They are looking wherever they feel they are going to find something. My understanding is that hour by hour -- and I think we have all observed it even on a commercial vessel -- the weather changes, and the weather is a factor in any operation.

QUESTION: But as of now, from your latest reports, is there bad weather out there?

MR. SYLVESTER: Out where?

QUESTION: In the area where the ships are, where the blockade ships are operating?

MR. SYLVESTER: I don't think I can help you on that.

QUESTION: Are the Russian vessels under air surveillance?

MR. SYLVESTER: Yes, of course.

QUESTION: Is that equipment being used for signalling submarines standard equipment used on other occasions?

MR. SYLVESTER: You are in a technical field that I can't answer. I will try to get the answer.

QUESTION: Has there been contact with unidentified submarines?

MR. SYLVESTER: I didn't get the question.

QUESTION: Have there been contacts with unidentified submarines?

MR. SYLVESTER: I am not aware of any.

QUESTION: Do you still anticipate that there will be an intercept at some point?

MR. SYLVESTER: Yes, I would anticipate.

QUESTION: Art, have there been any Russian airplanes come in since this went into effect?

MR. SYLVESTER: I am not aware of any.

QUESTION: What can you say positively about the 25 ships we had on the high seas last night?

MR. SYLVESTER: I think we can say positively what was said before, and I will stand where the matter was the last time the Secretary was here.

QUESTION: Are you refusing to discuss the Soviet ships under this security guidance or regulation?

MR. SYLVESTER: I am following my instructions that I have as of today at 4:30.

QUESTION: From Mr. McNamara?

MR. SYLVESTER: That is one of the sources of my instructions.

QUESTION: Art, I am not clear on what you meant about standing on what was said. Are you now telling us that there are 25 ships still there? You haven't been willing to say anything about the number of ships up to this moment.

MR. SYLVESTER: That is right. I am not going to discuss in any way, if I can prevent myself, the status of the shipping scene out there as we are dealing with it, other than what the Secretary himself has said.

QUESTION: Last night he said there were 25 in a stream coming across the Atlantic toward Cuba. Everything you have said this afternoon leads one to infer that you are not now reiterating that there are 25. Will you so reiterate?

MR. SYLVESTER: I will, of course, support what the Secretary said last night. I am not changing his figures one way or another. I am not adding to them, subtracting from them, saying where they are or aren't, or anything.

QUESTION: He said there were 25 ships out there.

MR. SYLVESTER: If he said there were 25 ships as he did, there must be 25 out there.

QUESTION: Later today, say at 6:30 or some other time, would it be possible to impose on the Secretary to come and do what he did before, so we can quote him by name or by a

Pentagon spokesman without attribution?

MR. SYLVESTER: I don't think he would consider it an imposition, what he did in the last two days. I don't think he will be here tonight. In fact, I am sure he will not.

QUESTION: Arthur --

QUESTION: Where is he going?

QUESTION: Arthur, if there must still be 25 ships out there, does that mean that Mr. McNamara's suspicion that one might have gotten in before the blockade has turned out to be incorrect?

MR. SYLVESTER: This again takes me beyond what he said, and into this other field; and I can't help on that.

QUESTION: Do you still stand on the part of the statement that they are en route to Cuba?

MR. SYLVESTER: I would have no comment where they are.

QUESTION: Art, have you sent out any messages comparable to the submarine instructions regarding airplanes?

MR. SYLVESTER: I am not aware. We will check it. I am not aware of them.

QUESTION: Arthur, is the Secretary here now? Has he been some place or is he going some place out of town?

MR. SYLVESTER: To the best of my knowledge, he is not going out of town. He has been in this building since Sunday, on 24 hour duty. He may not be in the building at the moment.

QUESTION: He went to NSC Monday afternoon, the Cabinet. How did he get there?

QUESTION: Has he been sleeping in the building?

MR. SYLVESTER: What I was trying to say, apparently fairly imprecisely, was that he has been on 24 hour duty since Sunday, Monday and yesterday. Obviously, he has been at the White House for meetings.

THE PRESS: Thank you, sir.

EXTRACT FOLLOWS

NEWS RELEASE
PLEASE NOTE DATE



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Washington 25, D. C.

NO. 1733-62

FOR THE PRESS:

October 24, 1962

OXford 53201/53176

STATEMENT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ARTHUR SYLVESTER

We are now able to announce some breakdown of information which has been obtained on Cuba. Release of this information is authorized by the Intelligence agencies of the U. S. Government.

There are eight to ten bases located in areas near the cities of Guanajay, Remedios, San Cristobal and Sagua LaGrande, with each base having about four launchers, more or less.

Reports from all intelligence sources confirm that at least 30 missiles and more than 20 IL-28 jet light bombers are present in Cuba. This evidence is undeniable. USSR personnel of at least 5,000 are now in Cuba -- the exact number cannot be determined because of personnel there having arrived on a number of ships and aircraft.

We will be able to release additional high and low level aerial reconnaissance pictures possibly in the next few hours.

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EXTRACT FOLLOWS

NEWS RELEASE
PLEASE NOTE DATE



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Washington 25, D. C.

FOR THE PRESS:

October 24, 1962

NO. 1734-62
OXford 53201
53176

The following security guidance was distributed today to military and civilian personnel of the Department of Defense:

"The following information is considered vital to our national security and therefore will not be released by the Department of Defense. Any publication of such information will be considered contrary to the national interest.

- "1. Any discussion of plans for employment of strategic or tactical forces of the United States including types of equipment and now or planned location of command or control centers or detection systems.
- "2. Estimates of United States capability of destroying targets, including numbers of weapons required, size and character of forces required, ability of these forces to penetrate defenses, and accuracy or reliability of our forces or weapon systems.
- "3. Intelligence estimates concerning targets or target systems, such as numbers, types and locations of aiming points in the target system, enemy missile and bomber forces, etc.
- "4. Intelligence estimates of enemy plans or capabilities, or information which would reveal the level of success of United States intelligence efforts or operations with respect to Cuba or the Communist Bloc.
- "5. Details as to numbers or movements of United States forces including naval units and vessels, aircraft, missile forces or ground forces, ammunition, equipment, etc. Announcement may be made of such unit movements after the movement has been completed.
- "6. Degree of alert of military forces.
- "7. Location of aircraft or supporting equipment. Presence of aircraft observable in the public domain may be confirmed.

MORE

- "8. Emergency dispersal plans of aircraft and units including dispersal capabilities, times, schedules or logistical support.
- "9. Official estimates of vulnerability to various forms of enemy action, including sabotage, of U.S. Armed Forces and installations.
- "10. New data concerning operational missile distribution, numbers, operational readiness. Estimates of effectiveness of strike capability of missile forces.
- "11. Details of command and control systems, including new or planned command posts and facilities, estimates of ability to survive enemy attack, security measures, etc., including sea or airborne command posts.
- "12. Details of airlift or sealift capabilities, including size and nature of forces to be lifted, time limits for such lifts, and supply capabilities, with respect to possible specific areas of operation."

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